

At this moment, after five years of confinement within the walls of the Vatican, the Pope remains the one and only moral force in Rome. The reason is twofold. First it is because he is the Head of the Universal Church, and is therefore sustained by a centripetal force, which augments in exact proportion to the wrong done to its centre; and next it is because he is the one and only Italian institution left to that sorely tried nation. The love and veneration of the whole Catholic world, and of the Italians as much as any, surround and support him. Discord, mutual hatred, and fear, and, as recent revelations show, the most profound corruption, reign at the Quirinal and on Monte Citorio. I allude to the disclosures of the *Libro Nero* and Zinzi's work in the 'Times' of this day (June 2). In the Vatican, on the other hand, there is light, there is unity and peace. From which comes help?

A committee has been formed to collect subscriptions for presenting Pius IX. with an offering on the 21st of May, 1877, the day on which he will complete his fiftieth year since his elevation to the Episcopate as Archbishop of Spoleto.

The Monastery of the Passionist Fathers was opened at Highgate a few days ago. The community was established about eighteen years ago by the late Cardinal Wiseman, at a time when there were very few Catholics in the vicinity, while now the congregation numbers considerably more than a thousand, the greater portion of whom are converts. In the morning High Mass was celebrated by Father O'Neill, the sermon being preached by Mgr. Patterson; and in the evening the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster solemnly blessed the new monastery, and, after officiating at vespers, preached an eloquent sermon. Benediction was then given and the proceedings terminated.

The 'British Army and Navy Gazette' states that Lord C. G. A. Hamilton, late of the 11th Hussars, and who served as aide-de-camp to Lord Napier of Magdala throughout the Abyssinian campaign, has become a Catholic priest, and recently sang his first Solemn High Mass at the chapel of the Carmelites at Kensington. His lordship is the only brother and heir presumptive to the Duke of Hamilton.

The centennial anniversary of the declaration of American Independence brought together on Tuesday night, July 4, at Harold's-cross, an assemblage of Irishmen, large, enthusiastic, and bound in sympathy with their ocean-separated friends and compatriots. At half-past seven batches of people were strolling towards the green, and half an hour later the batches had swelled into crowds, then bands, with accompanying ranks of men and boys, came bearing all before them on the roads, and rapidly the area for the meeting became covered and packed. From the far end, where the platform was erected, the mass of people were seen stretched to the sides of the green, and extended back as far as the bridge, where the ground gradually became denser and darker, while fresh bands and more banners strove to crush up towards the platform. Green flags, American flags, French flags, and bannerets, bearing harps, shamrocks, or likenesses of O'Connell, waved over the heads of the demonstrationists, while here and there brass instruments and uniform caps indicated the presence of the city bands, whose melodies hardly rose above the roar of the crowd, as they cheered some popular sentiment, or recognized some popular leader. Early in the proceedings, a large American flag was elevated on to the platform, and hailed by a mighty cheer, which rolled away to the bridge, until it became faint from distance, and not from lack of throats to support it. A small green banner, a humble follower of the great Transatlantic emblem, was then hoisted, and was as heartily welcomed. The French tricolor, too, was cheered. As darkness fell, the vastness of the meeting was more impressive, and then torches were lit, tar barrels set blazing, and fireworks and rockets sent sparkling showers of fire across the heavens. By ten o'clock the formal proceedings had concluded, and the assemblage turned homewards, flooding the return ways and streets, but preserving complete order, and the conclusion of the demonstration was quite in harmony with the conduct of the meeting throughout.

W. Gordon Davidson, J.P., Inspector-General of Hospitals, her Majesty's Army, R.L., writing from Bogie House, Fifeshire, in the London 'Times,' says: "Scotland is drinking itself to death, and the Government cannot stop it. Whisky contains no nutriment, and is merely an unnatural stimulant, destroying the drunkard's reason and his brain, and other organs, as is found after death by physicians. It is composed merely of water and ether; and ether makes people comatose and unconscious. The highest medical authorities—Carpenter, Tanner, Gregory, Liebig—prove this. The matter is perfectly obvious."

In the year 1875, 5960 judgments were pronounced against persons charged with offences against the person of Prince von Bismarck, and thirty-six cases for similar offences were dismissed. The punishments awarded to those so condemned amounted in the aggregate to 11,920 months, or 993 years of imprisonment. The maintenance of these prisoners cost the State \$257,000, and private individuals, \$75,000, making a total of \$432,500 as the price of maintaining the equanimity of temper or satisfying the petty vindictiveness of this Pomeranian. "Boor" he was called in his younger days; now that he is a Prince Chancellor his titles are more exalted, though it is doubtful if his popularity is greater.

The Prussian persecutors profess to stick up only for the rights of the State, and to forbear from any interference in the *interna* of the Church. Two occurrences that have been reported within the last few days give the lie direct to this assertion. One of the best Catholic catechisms is the one that was first published in 1847 by Father Deharbe, and of which an English edition, authorised by the late Cardinal Wiseman, has passed through many editions both in this country and in America. The authorities of the Rhenish province have just found out that this book, which had been used in Prussian schools for a quarter of a century, is dangerous to the public welfare, and so they have prohibited its further use in the Catholic schools of the Rhenish dioceses. This is No. 1. The other case occurred at the opposite end of the kingdom, at a place called Hennerwitz, in Silesia, where an apostate from the Catholic Church died lately in final impenitence. On the day when he was to be buried his friends, sup-

ported by the officials of the place, asked that the bells of the Catholic Church should be rung; and upon the priest's refusal, some men were sent to the belfry, who, having taken the key from the sexton by brute force, set about to pull the ropes with might and main, so as to produce a sound very different indeed from a funeral dirge. That's how the "home affairs" of the Catholic Church are respected by Bismarck's myrmidons.

An act of the most glaring iniquity has been perpetrated by the French Chamber of Deputies. Count Albert de Mun, the renowned Catholic Champion, one of the best men France has produced in our days, has been ignominiously ejected from the House, not for any fault of his own, but because two special committees had found out, after three months' microscopic inquiry, that the priests of the district of Pontivy had been in his favor, and had told their flocks that they were. Lower Brittany, in which Pontivy is situated, may be called the Connaught of France. A patriarchal purity has subsisted to this day in all relations of life, and the majority of the people still follow the paternal authority of their priests as implicitly as ever they did on the banks of the Shannon. Black sheep there are, of course, enough, and to spare; and the committees of the French Chamber, in trying to take evidence against the elect of the people, chiefly relied on the evidence of these outcasts. Thus, for instance, the vote of a whole parish was impugned by a fellow called Nicolazzo, who had, on one occasion, been the inmate of a prison for three months. The precedent of Judge Keogh's finding in Captain Nolan's case, in 1872, was very appropriately appealed to by the reporter, M. Turquet, as showing that "English jurisprudence" also is opposed to a "priestly influence at elections." No wonder that a judgment which every true Irishman holds in horror should have found especial favor in the eyes of French Radicals. Count de Mun's return was annulled, but he is sure to stand again, and subscriptions have already been started among Catholics in France to secure his triumphant return.

The Dignity of Roman Count has been conferred by his Holiness the Pope on the Chevalier F. M. O'Connell, an Irish gentleman, for some time past resident in Paris. His services to the Church in that city have been often the subject of previous acknowledgments, and during the commune he saved the lives of many of the clergy at the immense risk of his own. He worked amongst the wounded in every engagement round Paris while the siege lasted, and generously placed his fortune at the service of the ambulance, and his unselfish devotion to the suffering soldiers was rendered more effective by his medical skill. Mr. O'Connell has received the Commandership of Several orders of knighthood for his services in the cause of humanity.

Primitive people are sometimes lucky people, as appears from what occurred lately in a small village called Hesbécourt. The inhabitants of the place, wanting a church, and being too poor to pay for having it built, thought the best thing they could do was to put their own shoulders to the wheel, and build it themselves. So they set about digging the foundations, and, in order to make them sound and firm, went much deeper into the ground than is usually done; when, lo! they hit upon an earthen vessel, and, on examining its contents, found that it was full of silver coins, all from the time of the Huguenot wars, the dates ranging from 1560 to 1590. All these coins are of great numismatic value, and some of them actually bear the effigy of the Cardinal de Bourbon, who was recognised as King Charles X. by the Catholic League from 1590 to 1592. It is expected that the proceeds of this treasure-trove will defray the cost of the bells required for the new church; and should any of our readers who are of a numismatic turn wish to lend a helping hand to the undertaking by buying some of the coins, they should apply to M. Henne, Maire d'Hesbécourt, par Roisel (Somme).

The society for the organisation of a Franco-Servian Legion has been informed that the French Government will not give any authorisation for the establishment of Committees in Paris or other towns for the purpose of recruiting volunteers and collecting money and arms for Servia.

The last great fire at Quebec did not fail to produce its miracles. The Asile du Bon Pasteur was right in the path of the conflagration, and everybody had given it up for lost, when the pious ladies set several statues of the Blessed Virgin on the galleries as a preservative against the approaching danger. At the sight of these statues the devouring element turned aside and the asylum was spared. The Maison de Providence was saved in a similar manner in the great fire at Montreal in 1851.

A Scotch correspondent, evidently a physician, in a letter to the 'Indo-European Correspondence,' relates the following interesting incident: "On the feast of the patronage of St. Joseph, I read in the 'Month of Mary' of the wonderful fruits obtained by devotion to the holy rosary. It is related how a bishop in Spain was unable to succeed in reforming his people until he preached the rosary. By a strange coincidence, I heard on that day of the following: We have all read of the unfortunate voyage of the 'Strathmore' and the hardships endured by the survivors. One of the passengers was Mrs. Wordsworth. This lady had received a rosary from a Catholic lady [a convert] in Edinburgh, who asked Mrs. Wordsworth to use it when in trouble or affliction. The vessel struck. At the last moment Mrs. Wordsworth thought of her rosary, went down to the cabin and secured it. I make no comments; but I saw it mentioned in the newspapers that Mrs. Wordsworth is the only female who was saved."

We ('Catholic Review') desire to call the attention of our friends in Europe, who sometimes confound American republicanism with the wretched and vulgar parody of it known to Communists and other reds, to a striking contrast between some incidents which have occurred within a few months at the other side of the Atlantic and at this. That brave gentleman, Don Carlos, after fighting loyally and well for the crown of his ancestors, was defeated, and returned to England temporarily. From the time he landed until he departed from its inhospitable shores, he was on every public occasion treated with all kinds of contumely, which neither his cause nor his personal worth